What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for detecting a person in a space,
at least one depth sensor (1) producing spatial data about the space to be monitored,
at least one sub-model which is subdividable into further sub-models (17 through 33) being used for at least one selected body part of a human,
the spatial data being used to adapt the sub-models (17 through 33),
the adaptation being checked by position parameters between the sub-models (17 through 33) of different body parts, and
the person being recognized using a complete model made up of the checked sub-models.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the complete model (16) is adapted to track the persons over time by further adapting the sub-models (17 through 33) using the data at predetermined intervals.

3. The method as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the at least one body part is the head of a human.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 3,
wherein the at least one body part is the shoulder.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1,
wherein intensity information from the data is used.

6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the complete model (16), or at least part of the complete model (16), is transmitted for occupant classification to a restraint system (3) in a vehicle in which a person is located.

7. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5,
wherein the complete model is used in an anti-pinch protection

(4).

8. Use of a depth sensor in a method as recited in one of the Claims 1 through 7,
wherein the depth sensor (1) has at least one image pickup.

9. The depth sensor as recited in Claim 8,
wherein the at least one image pickup takes the form of a video sensor.

10. Use of the method as recited in one of the Claims 1 through 7 for controlling convenience features (5) in a vehicle.